

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 8, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *P*

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH WASHINGTON GAS FOR TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS

ISSUE: Consideration of a proposed ordinance to extend the franchise agreement with Washington Gas for twenty-four months, from April 17, 2004 until April 30, 2006.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council pass the proposed ordinance on first reading, and set the ordinance for public hearing, second reading and final passage on April 17, 2004.

BACKGROUND: The City's franchise to Washington Gas authorizes and requires the company to provide a natural gas transmission, distribution and supply system within the City, and permits the company to use the City's public rights-of-way for the facilities of this system. This franchise was granted by Ordinance No. 1101, adopted November 8, 1960, for a 30 year period, which ended in 1990. Since then, as permitted by Virginia law, Washington Gas has been allowed to continue providing day-to-day service in the City, and to continue using the City's rights-of-way subject to the City's general regulatory authority. The City and Washington Gas are in the process of negotiating the terms of a new, long-term franchise agreement.

DISCUSSION: The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has decided to purchase about 190 CNG-fueled buses to be garaged at the Arlington Bus Depot located at S. Glebe Road and Eads Street in Arlington County. These buses will serve routes in Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, and will emit far less pollution than the diesel-fueled buses they will replace. The new buses are anticipated to be delivered in the latter part of calendar 2005. Washington Gas is working with WMATA to provide a sufficient volume and pressure of natural gas to supply a CNG compressor station which will be required at the Arlington facility to fuel these vehicles.

Washington Gas has considered ten different routes running through both the City of Alexandria and Arlington County to bring this gas to the Arlington Bus Depot. The potential alignments are constrained by the limited number of gas feed lines in the area that have sufficient pressure and capacity to serve the Arlington CNG facility. These routes have been analyzed based on characteristics such as route length, constructibility, easement requirements, and neighborhood inconvenience. City staff have worked with Washington Gas and WMATA during the analysis

of these alignments.

Washington Gas has decided on an alignment, in consultation with City staff. This alignment begins in the City at the intersection of Quaker Lane and King Street. The alignment runs north on Quaker Lane (on the west side of the road in Arlington County) to Preston Road, down Preston to Valley Drive, then down Valley to W. Glebe Road where the line will cross Four Mile Run and then run east on S. Glebe Road in Arlington County to the bus facility. This alignment is shown on the attached map.

Because the alignment crosses through the Parkfairfax community, City staff have asked Washington Gas to meet with the residents of Parkfairfax to explain the alignment and potential construction impacts. This meeting is currently scheduled for Monday, April 12. In addition, staff have asked Washington Gas to prepare an informational brochure on the project. City staff are working with Washington Gas to review the brochure in advance of its distribution.

Construction of the gas line is expected to take about 12 months, and would begin once all of the necessary approvals are obtained.

City staff determined that the City's approval to construct this gas line to serve the Arlington Bus Depot should be granted under the terms of the 1960 franchise agreement. In particular, the franchise protects the City by requiring the company to move or relocate its facilities, at its cost, if necessary for the City to maintain, improve, or relocate its streets or the other public utilities which share use of the streets. In order that this significant new infrastructure be unambiguously covered by this provision, without holding this approval up pending the execution of a new franchise, the City Attorney has recommended that the City renew and extend the expired Washington Gas franchise for the anticipated 24-month duration of the new line's construction. In the meantime, staff will work with Washington Gas to negotiate a new long-term franchise, to go into effect prior to the expiration of this proposed extension.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1. Map of alignment

Attachment 2. Ordinance

STAFF:

Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES

Emily A. Baker, P.E., City Engineer, T&ES

Introduction and first reading:	4/13/04
Public hearing:	4/17/04
Second reading and enactment:	4/17/04

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Title

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Ordinance No. 1101, to renew and extend the franchise rights and privileges of the Washington Gas Light Company for 24 months.

Summary

The proposed ordinance renews and extends the franchise ordinance enacted in 1960, which permits the equipment and facilities of the Washington Gas light Company to be located within the public rights-of-way in the City of Alexandria, from April 17, 2004 to April 16, 2006.

Sponsor

Staff

Richard J. Baier, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services
Ignacio B. Pessoa, City Attorney

Authority

§ 2.04(d), Alexandria City Charter
§ 15.2-2100, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended

Estimated Costs of Implementation

None

Attachments in Addition to Proposed Ordinance and its Attachments (if any)

None

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Ordinance No. 1101, to renew and extend the franchise rights and privileges of the Washington Gas Light Company for 24 months.

WHEREAS, on November 8, 1960, the City Council enacted Ordinance No. 1101, which granted a franchise to the Washington Gas Light Company for the purpose of providing a natural gas transmission, distribution and supply system within the city; and

WHEREAS, Section 12 of Ordinance No. 1101 provided that the franchise rights and privileges provided by the ordinance were to continue for a term of 30 years, from September 26, 1960 until September 25, 1990; and

WHEREAS, since the expiration of said term, the City has permitted the Washington Gas Light Company to construct, maintain and operate its natural gas transmission, distribution and supply system within the city, in general accord with the terms of the said franchise; and

WHEREAS, the parties are negotiating the provisions of a new franchise; and

WHEREAS, in the interim, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) desires to secure, and the Washington Gas Light Company desires to provide, natural gas service sufficient to operate a fleet of compressed natural gas (CNG) busses at the Arlington Bus Depot at 3501 South Glebe Road, which gas supply line must run through the City of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Alexandria has determined that it is in the public interest to renew and extend for 24 months the franchise rights and privileges of the Washington Gas Light Company, and to approve and authorize under such franchise the construction and maintenance of the said supply line to serve the WMATA facility; now, therefore

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That, pursuant to Article VII, Section 9 of the Virginia Constitution, Article 1 of Chapter 21 of Title 15.2 of the Code of Virginia, and Section 2.04(d) of the Alexandria City Charter, Section 12 of Ordinance No. 1101, which defines the term of the franchise granted to the Washington Gas Light Company, be, and the same hereby is, amended to renew and extended the term of such franchise for a period of 24 months, such that the term of the renewed and extended franchise shall commence on April 17, 2004, and expire on April 16, 2006, unless sooner voluntarily surrendered by the franchisee with the consent of the city council, or unless sooner forfeited as provided by law.

Section 2. That Section 17 of Ordinance No. 1101 be, and the same hereby is, stricken and deleted.

Section 3. That Ordinance No. 1101, attached hereto as Attachment A and incorporated herein fully by reference, as amended by Section 1 and Section 2 of this ordinance, be, and the same hereby is, reordained.

Section 4. That under such franchise, the construction, operation and maintenance of a natural gas supply line to serve the WMATA Arlington Bus Depot, along the route through the City of Alexandria shown on Attachment B hereto, be, and the same hereby is, approved and authorized; subject, however, to such permission, terms, conditions, provisions and limitations as may be specified by the Director of Transportation and Environmental Services pursuant to Section 2 of Ordinance No. 1101.

Section 5. That this ordinance shall be effective upon the date and at the time of its final passage, and the commencement of construction of the natural gas supply line pursuant to Section 4 of this ordinance shall constitute the conclusive acceptance of this franchise and agreement with the provisions of this ordinance by the Washington Gas Light Company.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE
Mayor

Introduction: 4/13/04
First Reading: 4/13/04
Publication:
Public Hearing:
Second Reading:
Final Passage:

Ordinance No. 1101

AN ORDINANCE to grant to Washington Gas Light Company, its successors and assigns the franchise, right and privilege upon certain conditions, to use the streets, alleys and other public grounds as the same now exist or may hereafter be extended or laid out for the construction, maintenance and operation of a system of pipes, mains, manholes, connections, meters and other equipment and appliances for the transmission, distribution and sale of gas in the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance numbered 1091 which was adopted Tuesday, September 27, 1960, and approved by the Mayor, and duly advertised once a week for four successive weeks, the presiding officer of the Council of the City of Alexandria invited bids as required by law, for the privilege, right and franchise, upon certain conditions, to distribute, transmit, supply and sell gas within the City of Alexandria as set forth in said ordinance, and

WHEREAS, the Washington Gas Light Company submitted a bid in writing for the franchise, rights and privileges contained in said ordinance, which bid was delivered on October 25, 1960, in accordance with the advertisement, to the presiding officer of the Council in open session and was read aloud, and

WHEREAS, the presiding officer then and there inquired for any further bids, and there being no further bids, said presiding officer declared the bidding closed, and

WHEREAS, the Council, after consideration, was of the opinion that it would be expedient and to the best interests of the City to grant said franchise, right and privilege to the Washington Gas Light Company and hereby accepts the bid of said company upon the condition that said company shall first reimburse the City of Alexandria for the cost of all advertisement in connection therewith and upon the further condition that said company first accepts the franchise in writing in accordance with Section 15 of said ordinance, and

WHEREAS, the Council was of the further opinion that the name of said Washington Gas Light Company should be inserted in the draft of the proposed ordinance contained in said Ordinance numbered 1091 so that the ordinance ordained is substantially the same as that proposed except as to the insertion of the name of the accepted bidder; therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. The right is hereby granted unto Washington Gas Light Company, hereinafter referred to as "Grantee," its successors and assigns, for the term and subject to the terms, provisions, conditions and limitations hereinafter stated, to use the streets, alleys and other public grounds of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, hereinafter referred to as "City," as now existing or hereafter extended or laid out for the construction, maintenance and operation therein of a system of pipes, mains, manholes, connections, meters, and other equipment and appliances, for the transmission, distribution and sale of gas in and to any part of the City.

Section 2. The Grantee shall not construct or install, move, alter,

or change the location of any pipe, main, manhole, connection, meter or other equipment or appliance in any street, alley, or other public ground of the City or dig, cut or disturb any street, alley or other public place in the City unless prior written notice of its intention so to do is given to such department or agency of the City as shall have been or may be designated by the City Manager or the Council of the City and permission in writing so to do is granted by such department or agency or such requirement is waived by such department or agency. Such permission shall be conditioned upon compliance with the terms, conditions, provisions and limitations of this franchise and with such other terms, provisions, conditions and limitations as will preserve, protect and promote the safety of the public using the streets, alleys, and other public places of the City and as will prevent interference with or obstruction of the use of streets, alleys and other public places by the City or by any other public utility or public service corporation for their respective purposes and functions. Such permission shall also be conditioned upon such other terms, provisions, conditions and limitations as will preserve, protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the City and its citizens subject to the lawful exercise of the police power.

Section 3. The materials to be used and the manner of construction to be followed under this franchise shall be such as are commonly used and followed by similar grantees doing a similar business in cities of substantially the size of the City of Alexandria. The location and laying of all pipes or mains, the placing of manholes and conduits, and the location of any other permanent equipment or appliances of any kind under this franchise shall be subject to the approval of the City Council or such committee or city official as the City Council may from time to time designate.

Section 4. All work done under this franchise shall be done in such manner as not to interfere unreasonably with the free and proper use of the streets, alleys and other public grounds while the said work is in progress or unnecessarily to obstruct the travel thereon, and when the streets, alleys and other public grounds are used for any underground construction the surface thereof shall be restored within a reasonable time from completion of the work to the same condition as existed prior to such construction.

Section 5. The work to be done under this franchise shall be done in such a manner as not to damage any other underground construction of any other public service corporation holding a franchise from the City or any construction performed by the City itself, or by the State Highway Department, or unnecessarily to interfere with the making of connection by the City or by the citizens thereof with water or sewerage pipes which may now or hereafter be laid or constructed by the City or by any other public service corporation holding a franchise from the City.

Section 6. In the event the improvement, relocation, construction, reconstruction, maintenance or repair by the City of any of its facilities or services now or hereafter acquired including but not limited to any street, alley or other public place, sewer, electric, water, fire alarm, police communication or traffic control facility, or any part thereof, or in the event access to any street, alley or other public

place to or from any property of the City is required, and the City deems it desirable to move, alter or relocate, either permanently or temporarily, any of the Grantee's pipes, mains, manholes, connections, meters, or other equipment or appliances in order for the City to make its improvement, relocation, construction, reconstruction, maintenance or repair, or to obtain access to or from property, upon notice from the City, the Grantee will move, alter or relocate such pipes, mains, manholes, connections, meters, or other equipment or appliances at its own cost and expense; and should the Grantee fail, refuse or neglect to comply with such notice, such pipes, mains, manholes, connections, meters, or other equipment or appliances or any part thereof may be removed, altered or relocated by the City at the cost of the Grantee and the City shall not be liable to the Grantee for damages resulting from such removal, alteration or relocation.

Section 7. The Grantee in the exercise of any right granted to it by this franchise, shall at no cost to the City promptly reconstruct, replace, restore or repair any facility or service of the City, now or hereafter acquired, including but not limited to any street, alley or other public place, sewer, electric, water, fire alarm, police communication or traffic control facility or any part thereof which may be damaged, disturbed or destroyed by the exercise of any such right, in a manner, with such materials and to the satisfaction of such department or agency as shall have been or may be designated by the City Manager or Council of the City.

Section 8. Nothing in this franchise shall be construed to exempt the Grantee from any tax, levy, or assessment which is now or which may be hereafter authorized by law.

Section 9. The Grantee shall render to the public in the City at all times during the term of this franchise, efficient gas service at reasonable rates. The Grantee shall maintain its pipes, mains, manholes, connections, meters and other equipment and appliances within the City in a safe condition and in good order and operating condition throughout the term of this franchise, and the Grantee by accepting this franchise agrees that the State Corporation Commission has jurisdiction to the full extent and in the manner now or hereafter provided by law, during the term of this franchise, to require the Grantee to render efficient gas service at reasonable rates, and that the Corporation Court of the City has jurisdiction to enforce compliance with all the terms, provisions, conditions, and limitations of this franchise to the full extent and in the manner now or hereafter provided by law, during the term of this franchise.

Section 10. The Grantee agrees and binds itself to indemnify, keep and hold the City free and harmless from liability on account of death, injury or damage to persons, firms or corporations or property growing out of or directly or indirectly resulting from such use of the streets, alleys and other public places of the City, the acquisition, erection, installation, maintenance, repair, operation and use of such pipes, mains, manholes, connections, meters, or other equipment or appliances, or the exercise of any right granted by or under this franchise, or the failure, refusal or neglect of the Grantee to perform any duty imposed upon or assumed by the Grantee by or under this franchise; and in the event that any suit or proceeding shall be brought

against the City, at law or in equity, either independently or jointly with the Grantee on account thereof, the Grantee will defend the City in any such suit or proceeding at the cost of the Grantee; and in the event of a final judgment or decree being obtained against the City, either independently or jointly with the Grantee, then the Grantee will pay such judgment or comply with such decree with all costs and expenses of whatsoever nature and hold the City harmless therefrom; but nothing herein contained shall be construed to render the Grantee liable for the negligence of the City or of its agents or employees, or for that of any other person, firm or corporation.

Section 11. The rights granted to the Grantee by this franchise may be exercised by any successor or successors, assignee or assignees of the Grantee, but such successor or successors, assignee or assignees shall be subject to and bound by all of the provisions, terms, conditions, and limitations prescribed in this franchise.

Section 12. The rights and privileges granted by this franchise shall continue for a term of thirty years from the twenty-sixth day of September, 1960, unless sooner voluntarily surrendered by the Grantee with the consent of the Council of the City, or forfeited as provided by law. Upon the expiration of the term of this franchise or surrender or forfeiture of the rights and privileges granted by this franchise, the City may require the Grantee to remove all of its pipes, mains, man-holes, connections, meters, or other equipment or appliances from the streets, alleys and other public places of the City in which event the Grantee shall repair, restore or replace any street, alley or other public place and any sewer or water, electric, fire alarm, police communication or traffic control facility or tree, or any part thereof, which may be damaged, disturbed or destroyed by or as a direct or indirect result of the removal of such property, in a manner, with such materials and to the satisfaction of the City Manager of the City at the cost and expense of the Grantee within a reasonable time thereafter, which reasonable time shall be prescribed by the council of the City. Upon the refusal, failure or neglect of the Grantee to so remove such property from the streets, alleys and other public places, or to repair, restore or replace any such street, alley, public place, sewer, water or electric, fire alarm, police communication or traffic control facility or tree in a manner, with such materials and to the satisfaction of such department or agency of the City as shall be designated by the City Manager or Council of the City, the City may remove such property from the streets, alleys and other public places of the City and repair, restore or replace any such street, alley, public place, sewer, water, electric, fire alarm, police communication or traffic control facility or tree at the cost of the Grantee and the City shall not be liable to the Grantee for damages resulting from such removal.

Section 13. This franchise is granted pursuant to Sec. 124 and Sec. 125 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia and Article 2 of Chapter 22 of Title 15 of The Code of Virginia, and is subject to all franchises and permits heretofore granted by the Council to use the streets, alleys and public places of the City by other public utility or public service corporations. It is not intended by the grant of this franchise to abridge the exercise of the police power heretofore or hereafter granted to the City by the General Assembly. The grant of the franchise is subject to all ordinances and resolutions of the Council of the City as the same now exist or may

be hereafter amended, revised or codified, in the lawful exercise of any other power granted to the City by the General Assembly.

Section 14. That this franchise and the right and privileges granted thereby are not exclusive and nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to prevent a grant by the City of a similar franchise and rights and privileges to other persons or corporations.

Section 15. This Ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation published in the City not later than five days following its introduction, together with a notice containing the time and place for a public hearing. The Clerk of the Council shall note the date of introduction and first reading, the date of publication, the date of the public hearing and the date of the second reading and final passage in the minutes. This Ordinance shall be in force on the date of its final passage and shall become effective when the Grantee accepts this franchise and agrees to exercise the rights and privileges granted by this franchise upon and subject to the terms, provisions, conditions and limitations set forth in this franchise, which acceptance and agreement shall be in writing and shall be filed in the office of the City Clerk of the City.

Section 16. The Grantor agrees that the provisions, terms, conditions and limitations prescribed in this franchise shall be applicable in all respects to the use of streets, alleys and other public places situated in any territory annexed to the City or which may otherwise become a part of the City through extension of its corporate boundaries, and to the acquisition, erection, maintenance and use, for the said purposes of the Grantee, of pipes, mains, manholes, connections, meters, or other equipment or appliances in such streets, alleys and public places, and the Grantee shall have the same rights and privileges with respect thereto as are granted by this franchise for the use of streets, alleys and other public places of the City, regardless of the provisions of any franchise or other authority, public or private, granted by any county or other city or town, or of or by any deed or other instrument, and regardless of any limitation upon the expiration thereof fixed in any such franchise, authority, deed or instrument; and the right and privilege to so use such streets, alleys, and public places and to acquire, erect, maintain and use such property in such streets, alleys and public places shall expire or terminate with the expiration or termination of the franchise.

Section 17. This Ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation published in the City not later than five days following its introduction, together with a notice containing the time and place for a public hearing. The Clerk of the Council shall note the date of introduction and first reading, the date of publication, the date of the public hearing and the date of the second reading and final passage in the minutes. This Ordinance shall be in force on the date of its final passage, and shall become effective when the Grantee accepts this franchise and agrees to exercise the rights and privileges granted by this franchise upon and subject to the terms, provisions, conditions and limitations set forth in this franchise, which acceptance and agreement shall be in writing and shall be filed in the office of the City Clerk of the City.

LEROY S. BENDHEIM
MAYOR

Final Passage: November 8, 1960

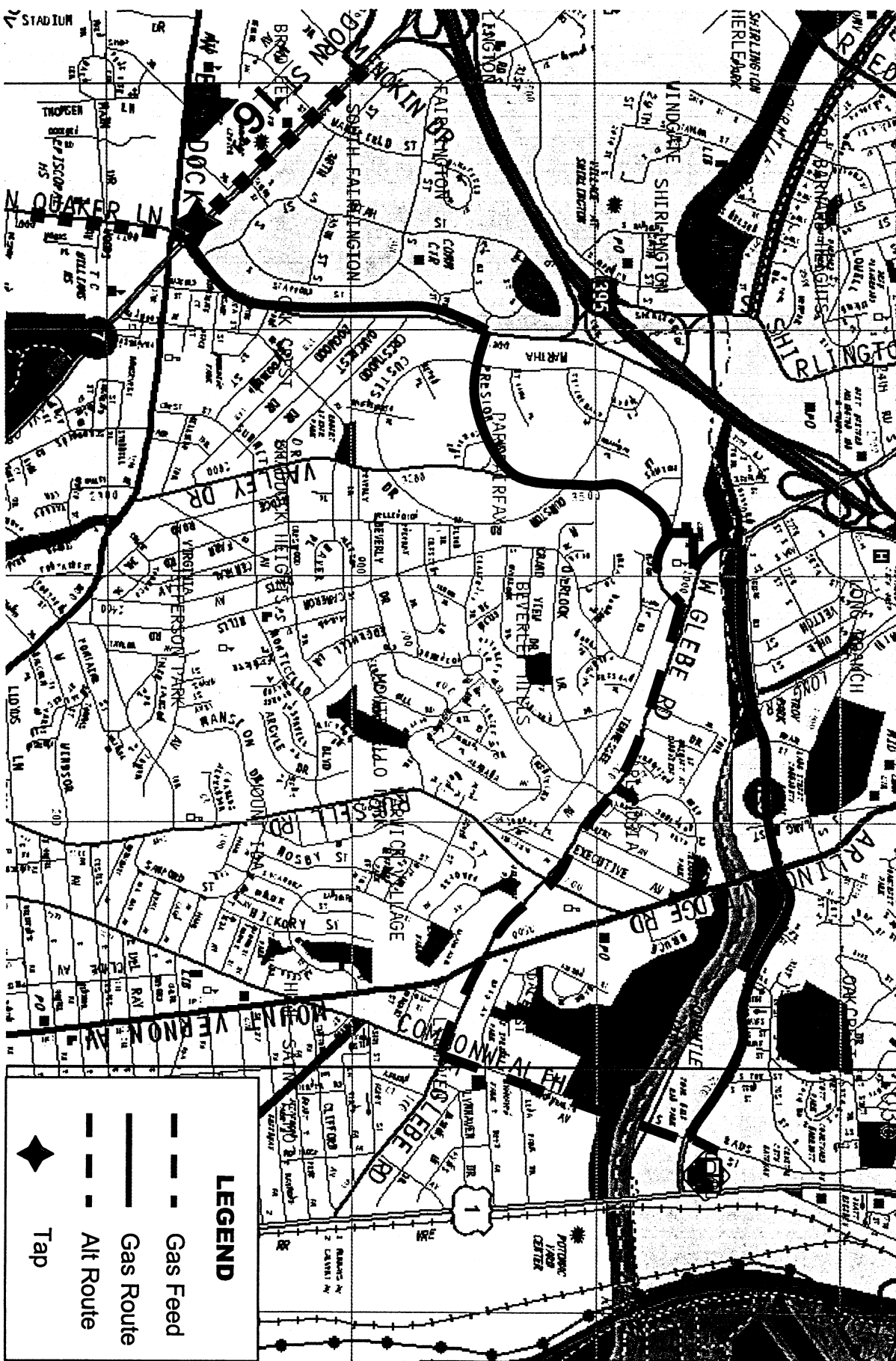
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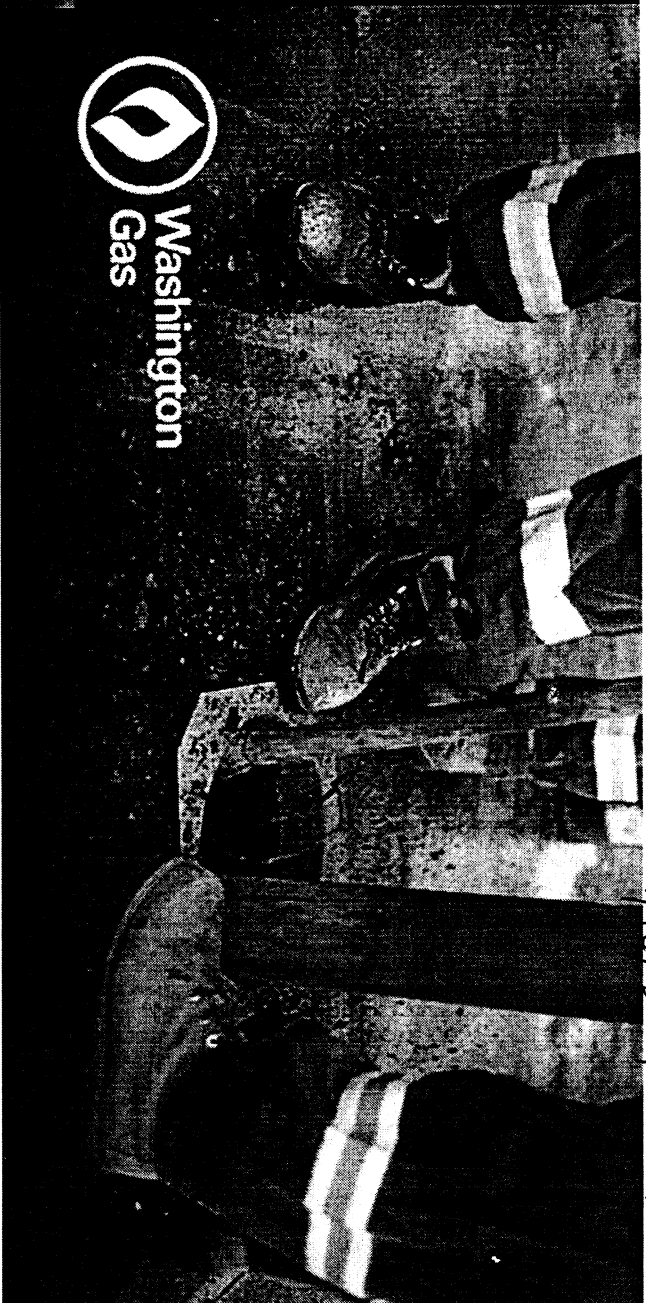
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WMATA CNG PROJECT - ARLINGTON YARD

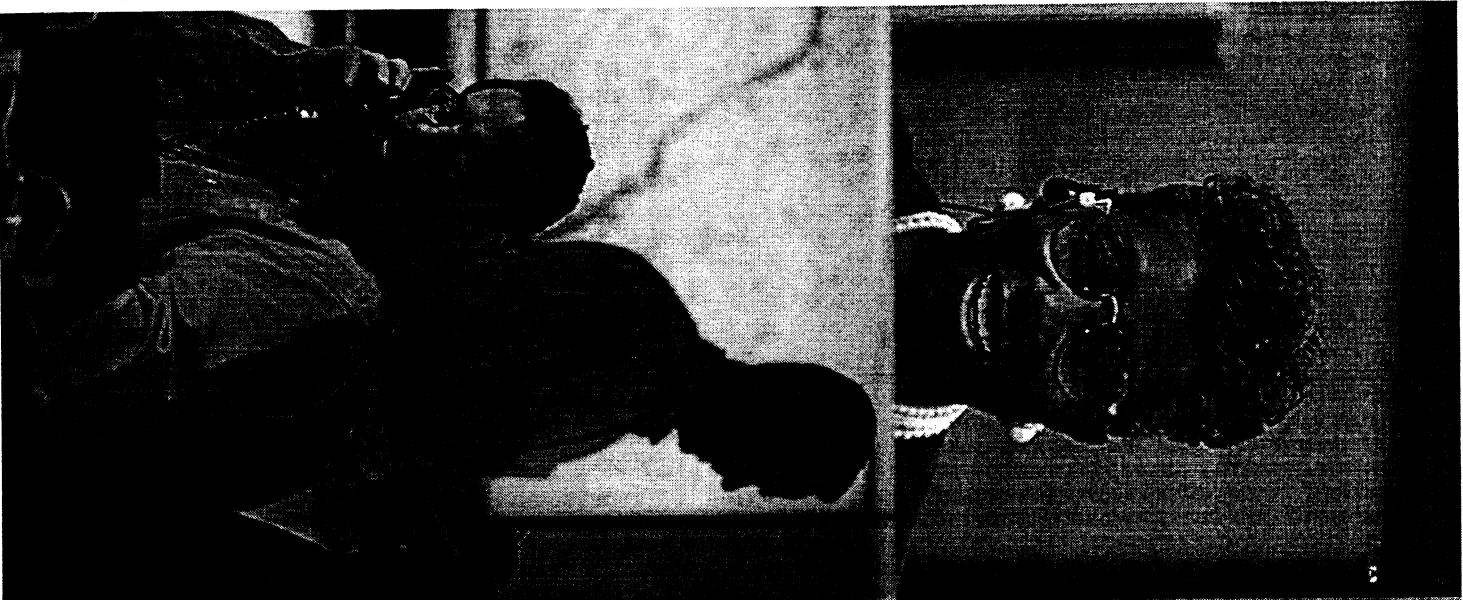
PIPELINE ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

(Revised March 4, 2004)





powerpoint by Washington Gas
4/13/2004 #21



Natural Gas Pipeline to Serve WMATA CNG Buses

John Ray
New Business Analysis

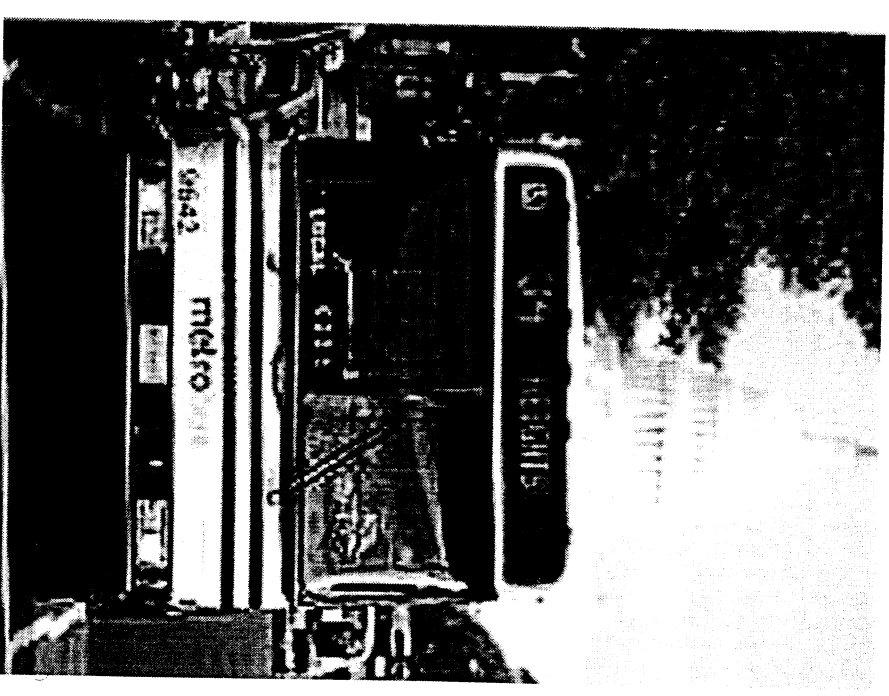
Scott McGeary
Public Affairs



CNG Pipeline Project



- WMATA is Upgrading Four Mile Run Bus Terminal to Fuel Passenger Buses with Clean Burning Natural Gas
- WMATA Requested WG to Provide Gas Volumes Necessary For Fleet Fueling
- Natural Gas Buses = Cleaner Environment
- EPA Clean Air Standards



Pipeline Description

- 8" Diameter Welded Steel
- 3.2 Miles in Length
- Estimated Pipeline Cost
~ \$6.5 Million Dollars



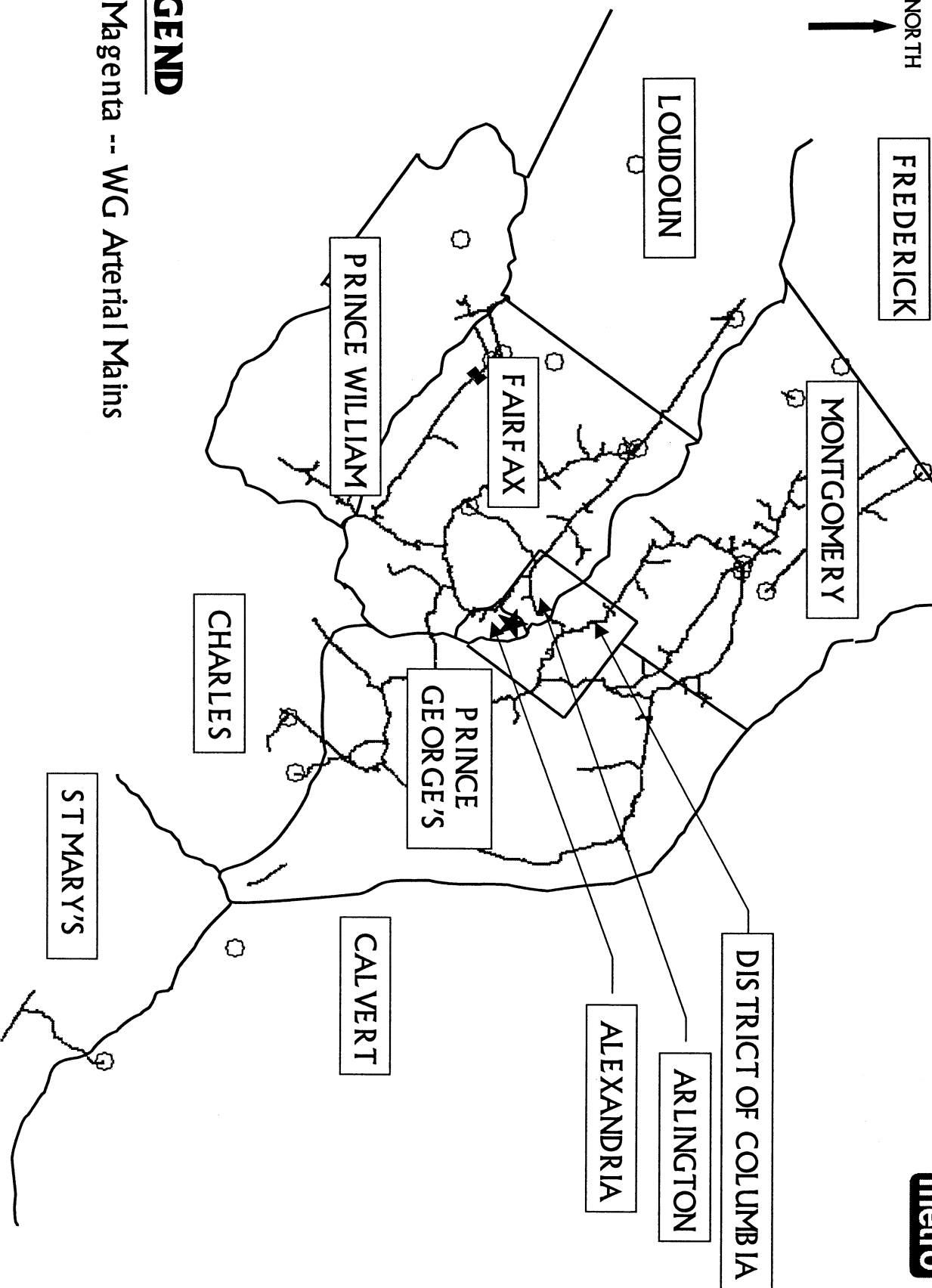


Washington
Gas

Washington Gas Arterial Mains



NORTH
↑



LEGEND



Magenta -- WG Arterial Mains



Washington
Gas

Pipeline Construction Practice at WGL



Environmental

Extensive precautions will be taken during construction to protect the environment and prevent erosion.

The Majority of the route is in Public Right-of-Ways (in paved streets)

The area will be restored as closely as possible to its original condition.





CNG Pipeline Project



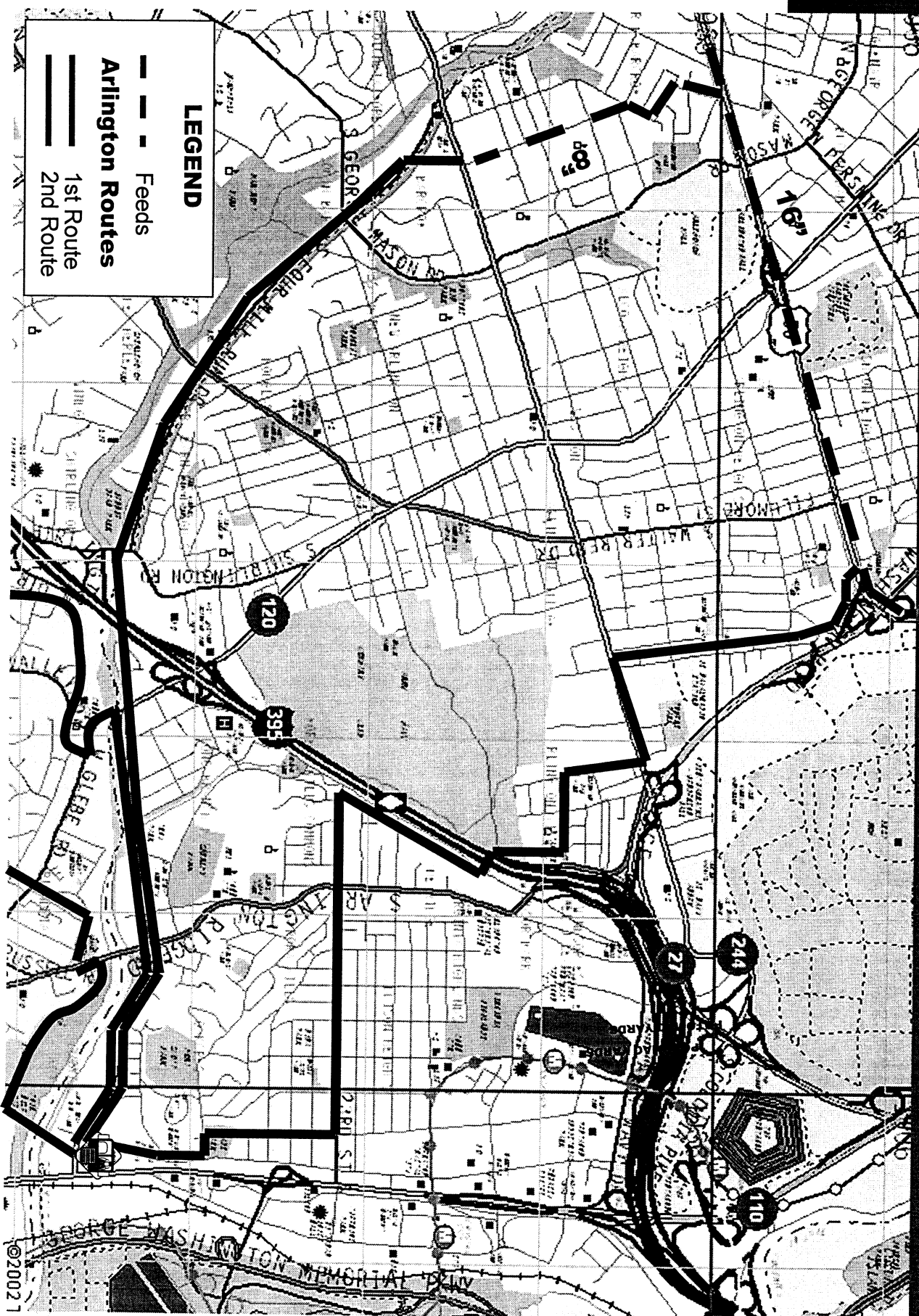
Route Selection Criteria

(In Partnership with WMATA and City Staff)

- **Construction Risk**
- **To Stay within Public Right of Ways**
- **Least Impact on Traffic & Surrounding Neighborhoods**



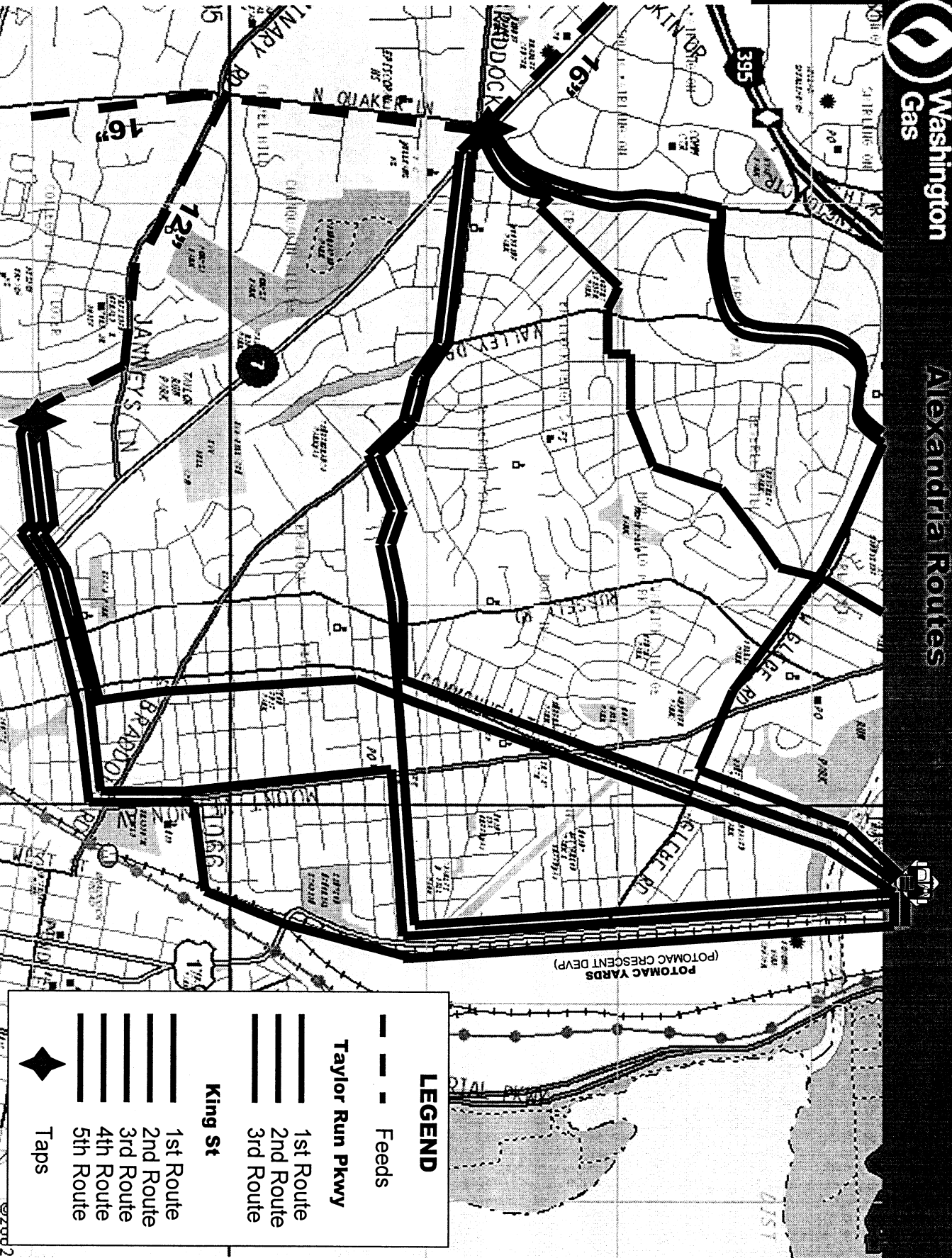
WMATA OPTIONS - Arlington Routes





Washington
Gas

Alexandria Routes





Washington
Gas

Route Impact on Alexandria



Notes	Construction Risk	Impact	Public	Surrounding Storage	% in Alexandria
Arlington Blvd and S West Feed		Arlington Routes rejected due to pipeline capacity		21,600 ft	0
S. Wakefield St and Columbia Pike Feed		inadequacy		17,400 ft	0
Taylor Run - Option 1					
<i>Commonwealth Ave</i>	H	H	H	M	<85%
Taylor Run - Option 2					
<i>Potomac Crescent</i>	H	M	M	M	<85%
Taylor Run - Option 3					
<i>Mt. Vernon Ave/Rt. 1/Pot. Crescent</i>	H	M	M	M	<85%
King Street - Option 1					
<i>Dominion Dr/Mt. Vernon Ave</i>	H	M	M	M	<85%
King Street - Option 2					
<i>Quaker La/Valley Dr/S Glebe Rd</i>	M	L	L	L	<33%
King Street - Option 2A					
<i>Quaker La/Valley Dr/W Glebe Rd</i>	H	H	H	H	<85%
King Street - Option 3					
<i>Braddock Rd / Commonwealth Ave</i>	H	H	M	M	<85%
King Street - Option 4					
<i>Braddock Rd/Rt. 1 /Potomac Crescent</i>	H	M	M	M	<85%



CNG Pipeline Project



Safe Construction: Numerous precautions will be taken during the actual laying of the pipe.

Safety Built to Last: The pipe is engineered to safely withstand the underground environment, meeting or exceeding all industry and federal safety standards.

Ongoing Route Inspections: Highly skilled personnel, using state-of-the-art technology, will conduct detailed tests and inspections.



Washington
Gas

CNG Pipeline Project



Schedule

- 12 Month (Total) Estimated Construction
 - 2-3 Month Construction Sequences
- Construction to Start around June 2004
- Minimized Disruption Utilizing Sequential Construction

CNG Pipeline Construction Fact Sheet

The Washington, D.C. metropolitan region consistently fails to meet Environmental Protection Agency air quality standards, affecting the health and well being of the residents of the region. The use of clean-burning natural gas to fuel CNG buses contributes to improved air quality.

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) is upgrading the Four Mile Run Bus Facility at 3501 South Glebe Road in Arlington, VA to fuel and maintain passenger buses operating with compressed natural gas (CNG). As a result, WMATA has requested that Washington Gas construct and operate a pipeline through parts of Arlington and Alexandria to provide natural gas service to the bus depot.

Design, construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed natural gas pipeline will be in strict accordance with all federal, state and local safety and environmental requirements as well as Washington Gas's construction standards. This will include a multi-step approach to damage prevention following installation.

Questions and Answers

Q: What is the size, material and proposed route of the natural gas pipeline?

A: The entire pipeline will be eight inches in diameter and constructed of wrapped or coated carbon steel. It will connect to an existing transmission line on King Street in Alexandria and then take the following route:

- King Street to Quaker Lane
- Quaker Lane to Preston Road
- Preston Road to Valley Drive
- Valley Drive to Martha Custis Drive
- Martha Custis Drive across City of Alexandria school property to West Glebe Road
- West Glebe Road across Four Mile Run to South Glebe Road in Arlington County
- South Glebe Road across Long Branch Creek bridge
- South Glebe Road to South Hill Street
- South Hill Street to South 31st Street
- South 31st Street to South Eads Street
- South Eads Street to the WMATA bus depot

Q: How long will it take to complete the project?

A: The estimated construction time is 12 months.

Q: What is the cost of the pipeline construction project?

A: Approximately \$6.5 million.

Q: Why was this route chosen?

A: The proposed route meets the following selection criteria:

- Economical to construct
- Least intrusive to the general public
- Least disruptive to traffic
- Least disruptive to the surroundings
- Possible to build within the 12-month timetable

- Q: What will Washington Gas do to ensure the pipeline is safe?
- A: Washington Gas will meet or exceed federal, state and local requirements for the safe design, installation and operation of the pipeline. The requirements include the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49 – U.S. Department of Transportation, Part 192.
- Q: What does Washington Gas do to ensure the quality of the pipeline?
- A: The pipe will be made of steel that meets the American Petroleum Institute Standard for carrying natural gas. The pipeline, including the welds, is protected against corrosion with a polyethylene coating. Additionally, before the pipeline is placed in operation, it will be pressure tested with water.
- Q: What is done to prevent damage to the pipeline following installation?
- A: Several steps are taken to prevent damage: The pipeline will be buried at least three feet below the ground; Metallic tape is buried directly above the pipe to allow accurate location; Under local laws, anyone planning an excavation must call "Miss Utility" at least 48 hours in advance. Utility lines will be marked throughout the area of the planned excavation; finally, odorant is added to natural gas so that it is readily detectable by a person with a normal sense of smell. Further, DOT regulations require that we periodically survey our pipelines.
- Q: Does Washington Gas operate natural gas pipelines of similar size and pressure in other urban or residential areas?
- A: In the Washington DC Metropolitan area, Washington Gas operates a system comprised of many miles of natural gas lines of varying diameters and pressures in each of its jurisdictions.
- Q: Is it possible to minimize disruption to adjoining neighborhoods?
- A: Yes. This will be achieved by utilizing a sequential construction plan, and a traffic management plan. In addition, the project will be coordinated with the appropriate permitting agencies and traffic control dispatch centers.
- Q: What about the noise from the project's construction?
- A: Washington Gas will follow the City of Alexandria ordinance, which dictates that work take place between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday.
- Q: What are the usual methods for informing a community about such a project?
- A: Before an installation project reaches a specific neighborhood, Washington Gas informs residents through letters delivered to their homes. In the case of a large project, Washington Gas's public affairs personnel will arrange community meetings.
- Q: How do CNG buses contribute to improved air quality?
- A: CNG buses emit far less nitrous oxide and particulate matter than diesel buses. According to the Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition (NGVC.org), dedicated natural gas vehicles can reduce exhaust emissions of carbon monoxide by approximately 70 percent, non-methane organic gas by 89 percent and nitrous oxide by 87 percent. The NGVC says dedicated natural gas vehicles also can reduce carbon dioxide exhaust emissions by 20 – 30 percent.
- Q: Who can I contact for more information?
- A: Please contact Alan Kolodne of WMATA, at 202-962-1750 or Akolodne@wmata.com or the Virginia Public Affairs office of Washington Gas at 703-750-5637.

April 12, 2004

PROPOSED PIPELINE ROUTE